



PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 018865-003600US
Client Ref. No.: 17732-9953

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J. Autio

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Joelle Sharp et al.

Application No.: 09/448,884

Filed: November 24, 1999

For: HYDROGEN ANNEAL FOR
CREATING AN ENHANCED TRENCH
FOR TRENCH MOSFETS

Examiner: David Vu

Art Unit: 2818

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

June 4, 2003

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 4, 2002, for which a request for a three-month extension of time to reply is enclosed, Applicants submit the enclosed §131 Declaration and provide the following remarks:

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending. Claims 15-18 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parekh et al. (USPN 5,945,724) in view of Sato et al. (USPN 6,100,132). Claims 19-23 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lu et al. (USPN 5,943,581) in view of Sato et al.

An important aspect of the present invention, which is included in the independent claims 1, 6, 9, and 19, is the step of annealing the trench so that trench corners at the open and closed ends of the trench become rounded. The Examiner rejects independent claims 1, 6, 9, and 19 on the basis of Sato et al. in combination with one of Parekh et al. and Lu et al., indicating that this step is shown by Sato et al. As the enclosed §131 Declaration demonstrates, the above-mentioned aspect of the invention,

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